

A New Majority Research Bulletin: Low Income Students Now a Majority in the Nation's Public Schools

Southern Education Foundation 2015

<http://goo.gl/i5N6a3>

Low income students are now a majority of the schoolchildren attending the nation's public schools, according to this research bulletin. The latest data collected from the states by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), show that 51 percent of the students across the nation's public schools were low income in 2013.

In 40 of the 50 states, low income students comprised no less than 40 percent of all public

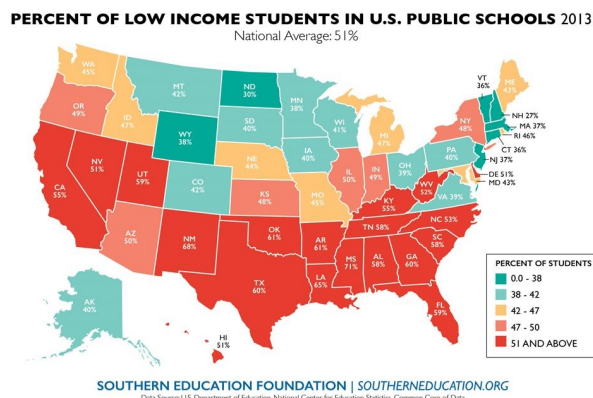
NEBRASKA STATS

Nebraska has increased the percentage of free and reduced lunch from 29.83% in 1999-2000 to 44.935 % in 2013-14. Majority of free and reduced lunch are students of color.

schoolchildren. In 21 states, children eligible for free or reduced-price lunches were a majority of the students in 2013.

Most of the states with a majority of low income students are found in the South and the West. Thirteen of the 21 states with a majority of low income students in 2013 were located in the South, and six of the other 21 states were in the West.

...Their success or failure in the public schools will determine the entire body of human capital and



educational potential that the nation will possess in the future. Without improving the educational support that the nation provides its low income students – students with the largest needs and usually with the least support .”

Education Gap Between Rich and Poor is Growing Wider

Edward Porter / New York Times / September 22, 2015

Full article: <http://goo.gl/bqznvp>

(Excerpt) The wounds of segregation were still raw in the 1970s. With only rare exceptions, African-American children had nowhere near the same educational opportunities as whites.

The civil rights movement, school desegregation and the War on Poverty helped bring a measure of equity to the playing field.

Today, despite some setbacks along the way, racial disparities in education have narrowed significantly. By 2012, the test-score deficit of black 9-, 13- and 17-year-olds in reading and math had been reduced as much as 50 percent compared with what it was 30 to 40 years before.

Achievements like these breathe hope into our belief in the Land

of Opportunity. They build trust in education as a leveling force powering economic mobility. "We do have a track record of reducing these inequalities," said Jane Waldfogel, a professor of social work at Columbia University.

But the question remains: Why did we stop there?

early intervention key to combating illiteracy

EdCentral Sept. 8, 2015

Full article: <http://goo.gl/P1nO3R>



...[according to the Department of Education](#), 30 million American adults can't take part in that simple pleasure because they are unable to read well. That's one out of every seven adults in this country. And the news doesn't get much better when we examine the reading skills of current U.S. students. According to a [2014 report](#) by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 80 percent of low-income fourth graders and 66 percent of all fourth graders are not proficient in reading as measured by the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data.

These fourth-grade numbers are alarming because there is a growing body of evidence showing a direct link between failure to read proficiently by the end of third grade and failure to graduate from high school. Research outlined in a [2013 report](#) by the Annie E. Casey Foundation points out that children who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to not graduate from high school

than proficient readers. The same study found that low-income students who are not proficient readers by the end of third grade fail to graduate from high school at a rate six times higher than proficient readers.

Due to the close link between third grade reading proficiency and later academic success, states and educational organizations are increasing their focus on building students' literacy skills in the early grades of elementary school. More and more states are passing third grade reading laws that focus on identifying reading deficiencies early and quickly implementing interventions aimed at getting students up to grade level. The Education Commission of the States has put together a [helpful chart](#) detailing the specifics of each state's reading law. Nevada is the most recent state to pass such a law. The [Read by Three Act](#) focuses on early identification of struggling readers and mandates intensive intervention for struggling readers in K-3rd grade.

Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities. Competencies for Effective Principal Practice.

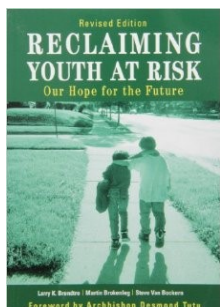
Naesp
<http://www.naesp.org/lc>

As the federal role expands to support increased state investments in school-based prekindergarten programs, NAESP has released an updated, principal competency guide: **Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice**. Developed by a panel of leading practitioners, this standards document defines new competencies, and outlines a practical approach to high-quality early childhood education that is critical to laying a strong foundation for learning for young children from age three to grade three, or Pre-K-3.

September Book Review

Proven and Powerful Practices

Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future



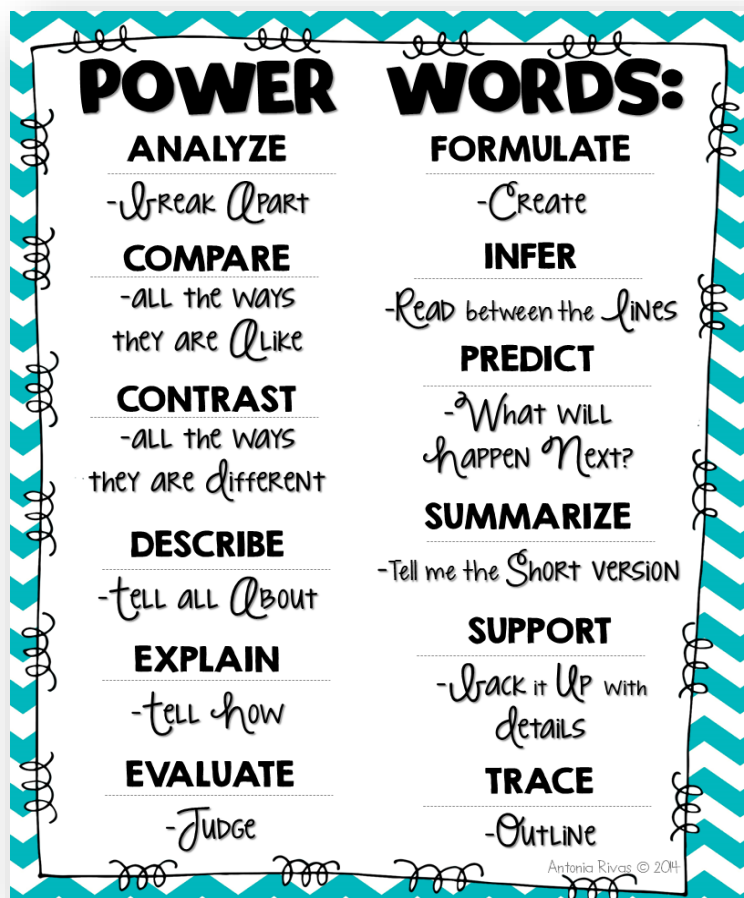
Authors: Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, Steve Van Bockern

Summary: (from amazon.com)
Reclaiming Youth at Risk offers educators and others access to unique strategies for reaching troubled youth. This resource explores: -The roots of discouragement in today's youth, including destructive relationships, learned irresponsibility, and a loss of purpose. - How to create a Circle of Courage to give youth a sense of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. -How to mend a circle that has been broken. -How to reclaim youth who are troubled or lost.

Review:

This book is a valuable, practical and usable resource. It is appropriate for teachers, counselors, administrators, and support staff from Kindergarten through high school. Educators who implement the Circle of Courage philosophy in their schools and classrooms promote the positive development of all children. The book clearly defines what belonging, mastery, independence and generosity mean and the rationale for implementing them. This book helps us redirect our way of thinking about troubled or "at-risk" youth. It helps educators to think of ways of restoring them to be better people and have better relationships with other youth and adults through practical strategies. It is not a "self-help" or "quick and easy steps" to fixing kids. It is a book that provides educators a way to truly build positive interactions with children who have not had a lot of previous positive experiences with adults.

12 Powerful Words



Visit this PowerPoint to explain how powerful these words are to your colleagues and students.

www.fentress.k12tn.net/LarryBellStrategies/12powerfulwords.pdf

Watch video

<https://goo.gl/Ua3lzf>



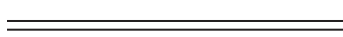
From the ASI Website

Teacher Diversity in the U.S. is an area of concern. The teacher work force has gotten less ethnically and racially diverse and more female, a development which has had an adverse effect on students, particularly on males of color. It is an impediment to the broader goals of equity and social harmony. ASI is working to better understand teacher labor market trends and identify promising interventions aimed at increased teacher diversity in K-12 education.

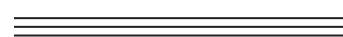
This report shows that nationally, progress toward greater diversity is being made, but it is quite modest compared to the need for more minority teachers. In the nine cities studied—Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.—the picture is much more bleak, and there are only a few pockets of progress, surrounded by serious setbacks.

Download the 126 report and Executive Summary and watch the press conference video <http://goo.gl/PkqClk>

Scholarship and Grant Connection



WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/MCE



College costs are increasingly getting higher. Every student needs to be looking for various funding sources for college. The following report provides many strategies for seeking funding for college. Remember it is never too early to start looking for grants and scholarships. In fact there are multiple organizations that offer or promote contests and competitions where they award scholarship dollars as prizes. The time to start looking for funds for college, for every child in 7th grade and above is today.

This site offers great suggestions for all cultures. A free downloadable "How to Find and Win Scholarships" is available at <http://goo.gl/eV0Diu>



Gates Millennium

African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander or Hispanic American. Citizen or legal permanent resident; GPA 3.3 or GED.

Open: August 1, 2015
Deadline: January 13, 2016

<http://www.gmsp.org/> for forms and additional criteria

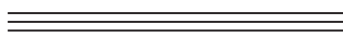
State Farm Foundation: Grants

We make it our business to be like a good neighbor, helping to build safer, stronger and better educated communities across the United States. Through our company grants, we focus on two areas: safety and education.

Deadline: October 31, 2015

<https://goo.gl/1miiLe>

Workshops, Webinars, Conference Connection


WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/MCE


Thursday, October 8

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Jewish Community Center/

333 S 132nd Str / Omaha NE

Register online before October 5

<https://goo.gl/Ywo9XJ>

The Anti-Defamation League and Inclusive Communities Present:
Inclusion in the Classroom: Understanding Power and Privilege

Join us as we discuss tangible, historical and current examples of identity-based privileges. Presenters will utilize the acronym UAVOIDIT to outline how privilege manifests itself in societies. Participants will be led through the concept of power and how it influences privilege. This session will educate participants on manifestations of privilege and the effects of power in relationships, as well as promote self-awareness of participants' privileges.

Coaching to Assist Teachers of Students Struggling in Mathematics

Webinar: October 17, 2015

- Learn about intervention instruction in elementary and secondary mathematics
- Find out which commonly-used content and instructional practices actually interfere with mathematics learning and are counterproductive to student success
- Explore ways to monitor student progress, specifically in middle school algebra

This webinar is designed for any educators interested in helping elementary or secondary students who are struggling to learn mathematics. School-, district-, and state-level personnel are all welcome to attend. If you are interested but cannot attend the live event, you can still register at the link below and be notified when a recording of the webinar will be available online.

Register online
<https://goo.gl/ZTdqJW>

McRel Sponsored

Equity Update 2015

October 15-16, 2015

The update is free of charge to all public school educators in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, but space is limited. This year the Update will address the topics of social justice, student achievement, and information on teen gender violence from Jana's Campaign which you can check out [here](#). The event also allows networking between participants and connects attendees with other regional technical assistance providers. Email us at meac@ksu.edu.

Midwest Equity Center
 Kansas City MO

For more information email us at
meac@ksu.edu.

2015 Annual Hispanic/Latino Summit**October 27, 2015**

Opportunities for secondary students and educators to learn about the importance of graduating college and being career ready. The 2015 Summit provides opportunities for secondary students and staff to learn about the importance of graduating college and career ready and highlights resources available to support student success.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 19

Younes Conference Center
Kearney NE

www.latinosummit.org

Formative Assessment Research and Implications**November 2, 2015**

Focused on learning about formative assessment research and discussing implementation and teacher support for using formative assessment in the classroom. The event will include presentations on formative assessment research in the morning and small-group, break-out discussion sessions in the afternoon.

- See how teachers can use formative assessment to improve student achievement
- Discuss how to implement formative assessment and support teachers in the use of formative assessment in the classroom
- Debate the relevance of rigorous research to classroom teaching.

ESU 3—LaVista, NE
Space is very limited

Register at <https://goo.gl/NANhzH>

McRel sponsored

A Dream Deferred: The Future of African American Education**March 7-8, 2016**

Attendees will discuss new solutions, share best practices, and collaborate with colleagues to make a difference for African American students.

<https://dreamdeferred.collegeboard.org/>

Sheraton & LeMeridien
Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte,
N.C.

Prepare: Educating Latinos for the Future of America**April 18-19, 2016**

Participants will convene to discuss strategies to increase the preparation, access, and college completion of the fastest-growing student population in our public schools.

New York, NY
<https://prepare.collegeboard.org/>

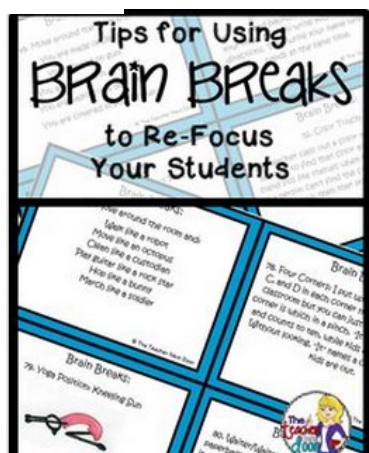
Native American Student Advocacy Institute**June 6-7, 2016**

One Vision conference to discuss new solutions, share best practices, and collaborate with colleagues to make a difference in the lives of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students.

Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ
Information coming



Brain Breaks, effective way to refocus with physical and mental activities. They energize, stimulate and improve productivity for all ages. They are short mental breaks during a regular activity lasting about 5 minutes. Pinterest is full of examples to adopt in your classroom or educator training.



Help your students re-focus and more by using active brain breaks in the classroom.

<http://goo.gl/USKfx8>



Brain Breaks can be just what you need to help wake up the brain and body! {Free Printable with 30 ideas to get blood pumping and improve focus!}



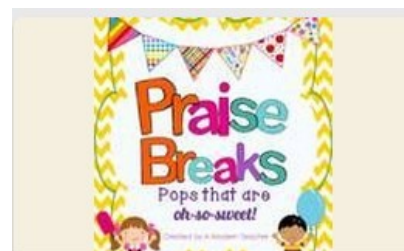
[GoNoodle's](http://GoNoodle.com) all about "free brain breaks that help channel classroom energy for good" and how can you read that line and NOT want to give it a try? I certainly couldn't! They have a [great introduction video](#), but honestly it's very intuitive. I'll give you the rundown.

<http://goo.gl/huHzX5>



Afternoon yoga program has helped me "keep the lid" on in the afternoons . . . best part . . . it's FREE!

<http://goo.gl/fBM9BO>



Don't forget to take praise breaks also. They are just as important to stop and praise your students/ fellow teachers and administrators. This book has excellent props.

<https://goo.gl/cE5eab>



FREE & FUN Video. Action song really for all ages and adults. Boosts the energy.

<https://youtu.be/388Q44ReOWE>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Register early as space is limited to 600 students and faculty. Deadline to register is October 19, 2015.

Hispanic/Latino Student Summit

Younes Conference Center - Kearney
October 27, 2015

FEATURED SPEAKER

Lina Traslavina-Stover



Nebraskan Lina Traslavina-Stover will share her story of struggle and hope to inspire others to believe in themselves. *"The one thing standing in the way of you and your potential is doubt. So start believing!"*

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Registration fee is \$10 per person.

To register for this event, please download and complete the group registration and submit by fax to (402) 476-7740 or email to michelle@ncsa.org. Checks should be made payable to NCSA. **The deadline to register is October 19, 2015.**

Summit Purpose is to

- ✓ increase youth leadership opportunities,
- ✓ showcase Hispanic/Latino student achievement success,
- ✓ highlight resources available to support student success, and
- ✓ inspire ACTION for creating positive futures!

LOOKING FORWARD:
BUILD YOUR
FUTURE!



www.latinosummit.org

Website for current Summit information.



The Summit is sponsored by
the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Latino American Commission





Online virtual Google Science Fair for youth 13-18 years of age. The fair is partnered with LEGO and National Geographic. Their projects have worked on how to diagnose and treat diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's. They've engineered flashlights powered by their hands and plastics made of banana peels. And to date, the fair has provided almost \$1 million in scholarships, and sent four grand prize winners on trips around the world to further their scientific passions. <http://goo.gl/ZzJYV6>

Need Laugh—we are sure you have seen this. A Texas PTA parent devised a letter for funding raising options.

This fundraiser is in lieu of sending students home with the task of selling door-to-door, collecting money, and delivering goods. Please help us avoid that by supporting our PTA with your donation, and helping us achieve our goals to support our students and faculty.

- ☐ **\$15** I do not want to bake, so here is the money I would have spent on those cupcakes.
- ☐ **\$25** I do not want to hit up friends, family, and co-workers so here is the money I would have spent buying wrapping paper.
- ☐ **\$50** I do not want to walk, swim or run in any activity that has the word "thon" in it. Here is the money I would have spent on my child's "free" t-shirt.
- ☐ **\$75** I don't want to attend any fancy balls, so here is the money I would have spent on a new outfit.
- ☐ **\$100** I really wouldn't have helped anyway, so here is \$100 to forget my name.
- ☐ **\$_____** I am making this donation to express my appreciation for having nothing to buy, sell, or do except fill out this form.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Student name: _____ Gr _____



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www.education.ne.gov/mce

Online newsletter: <https://sites.google.com/a/education.ne.gov/diversityconnectionnews/>